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AMERICAN VAMPIRE

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The Nocturnes

Part 2 of 2

Writer: Scott Snyder
Art: Riccardo Burchielli
Colors: Dave McCaig
Letters: Jared K. Fletcher
Asst. Editors: Gregory Lockard
Editor: Mark Doyle
AMERICAN VAMPIRE created by
Scott Snyder
and Rafael Albuquerque

AS A TAXONOMIST, THERE'S A THRILL YOU GET WHEN A NEW SPECIES PRESENTS ITSELF. A KIND OF RUSH THAT COMES RIGHT AT THE MOMENT YOU REALIZE YOU'RE LOOKING AT SOMETHING NOT IN THE BOOKS, SOMETHING THAT CONSTITUTES A GENUINE DISCOVERY.

AS A TAXONOMIST FOR THE UNDEAD, THOUGH, THE PROBLEM IS, A MOMENT AFTER YOU DISCOVER IT, YOUR DISCOVERY USUALLY TRIES TO KILL YOU.



HOW ABOUT IT, SOLDIER?



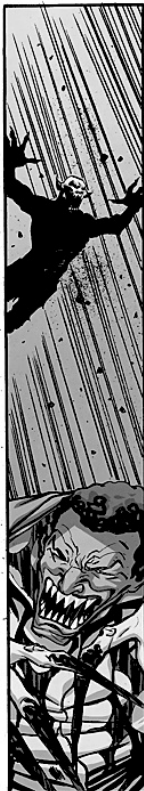
YOU GOT ANY LAST WORDS?



YEAH...



HEEL.













"SOMEONE
HELP ME!"

AAAAAH!

...WHAT AM I
DOING IN THIS
COFFIN?



I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
HEAL BETTER...
IN THERE.



ONLY IN
THE MOVIES.

THE
NOCTURNES.
THE BAND...

THEY MADE
IT TO THE FAIR,
BUT THE DOGS WILL
LIKELY TAKE THEM
LATER TONIGHT,
WHEN THE WHOLE
THING IS OVER.



DOGS?

THAT'S
WHAT THEY CALL
THEMSELVES, THE
OLD MEN. "THE
FLYING CANINES."
THE DOGS.



THEY DO
IT ALL THE
TIME.



AND HOW
DO YOU KNOW
THIS?

BECAUSE...





...I GET THE BODIES.

THEY END UP HERE, AT THE COLORED GRAVEYARD, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

THE DOGS DON'T COME HERE, IT'S THE ONLY SAFE PLACE.



THE GROUND IS SHALLOW...

ALWAYS HAS BEEN. I'VE GOT TO BURY THEM CLOSE TO THE SURFACE, NO MORE THAN THREE FEET DOWN. THE SMELL, THE DOGS CAN'T TAKE IT. THEY STAY AWAY.

THEY COME HUNTING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SOMETIMES, BUT THEY STEER CLEAR OF THIS PLACE.

LOT OF GOOD MEN AND WOMEN BURIED IN THIS GROUND. LOT OF GOOD MUSIC, TOO.



AND NO ONE NOTICES THE ONES WHO GO MISSING DOWN HERE?



MY FRIENDS AND I, WE USED TO COME TO THIS PART OF TOWN AFTER SCHOOL SOMETIMES. FOR FUN, WE MADE FRIENDS HERE.

BUT THEN WE SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.



I NEED TO MAKE A PHONE CALL.





WELL, YOU'RE LUCKY. THE TRANSMISSION AGENT IS HIGHLY INFECTIOUS--IN THE SALIVA. ANY VICTIM OF ATTACK WILL LIKELY BE TURNED, SHOULD THAT VICTIM BE LEFT ALIVE, THAT IS.

THIS GROUP SEEMS EAGER TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THEIR VICTIMS IS.



THEN BE GRATEFUL, AND DESTROY THEM ALL. LIKE I SAID, THEY'RE A HIGHLY INFECTIOUS SPECIES, AND ONE--

SPECIES OF WHAT THOUGH HOBSEST OF VAMPIRE?

WHY HAVEN'T I SEEN THESE BEFORE IN ANY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FIELD RECORDS?



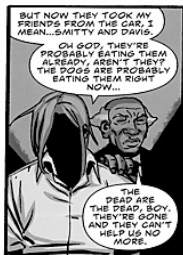
THE RECORDS YOU'VE SEEN ARE ACTIVE RECORDS. SPECIES WE KNOW OR SUSPECT TO BE LIVING, SO TO SPEAK. THIS ONE, I SUSPECT, IS *HOMO ABOMINUM CANIS ASIATIC-2*.

RECORDS OF IT STRETCH BACK TO THE WRITINGS OF PLINUS IN THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. WOMEN TURNING INTO THREE-LEGGED WOLVES, OR WOLVES WITH NO TAILS. MEN WITH BRISTLES BENEATH THE TONGUE AND FUR BUNCHED THE SKIN.

THE SPECIES POSED A SEVERE PROBLEM IN EAST ASIA IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 10TH CENTURY, BUT AS OF FORTY YEARS AGO, IT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED ENTIRELY.

THESE MEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH, LIKELY THEY WERE TURNED OVERSEAS BY MEMBERS OF THIS SPECIES THAT ESCAPED EXTINCTION.





"THEY ALWAYS TAKE THEIR PREY TO THE SAME PLACE. THE OLD VA HALL BEHIND THE FAIRGROUNDS. IT'S PART OF THE STELL FAMILY FARM."



"IT HAS A PRESERVE CELLAR IN THE BASEMENT. THAT'S WHERE THEY TAKE THEM, THE ONES THEY WANT TO EAT."



"THEY KEEP THEM DOWN THERE FOR DAYS, WEEKS, FEEDING ON THEM. THEY DON'T EAT THEM ALL AT ONCE. THEY CUT OFF PIECES AND EAT THEM SEPARATE. THEY MAKE IT LAST..."



RRRRR



RAAARRR!







AND HERE
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE ONE OF
USSSS...

BUT I GUESS
YOU CAN DRESS A
NIGGER UP IN UNIFORM,
EVEN GIVE HIM **FANGS**,
BUT HE'S STILL A
NIGGER.

WELL,
CONSIDER THIS
YOUR HONORABLE
DISCHARGE,
BOY.



RARARAR!!





SO DON'T YOU FEAR...

PEOPLE SAY THAT THESE ARE STRANGE TIMES, FULL OF CHANGE AND EVOLUTION.

THEY SAY EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, YOU FIND SOMETHING NEW.





To Be Continued Next Month
In "The Blacklist" Part 1!

